



National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

USER NOTE 1

Automated verification was performed on one data table or file, July 1967-June 1968 (File XMIS Number 005201), of the Military Prime Contract File (MPCF) on March 25, 2002 using the Archival Electronic Records Inspection and Control (AERIC) system. This verification is more comprehensive than the manual verification of the MPCF performed in April 1988. The automated verification detected three anomalies in the data that were not fully described in the manual verification. However, parts of the manual verification statement continue to remain a valuable source of information about the MPCF.

- 1) The Labor Surplus Area variable, character positions 44-46, code list does not match the data layout for this field. The only codes described in the agency documentation for this three character field are one character codes. The agency documentation does not account for this anomaly.
- 2) The Dollar Value variable, character positions 78-86, is a "signed" numeric field. This is indicated by alphanumeric characters in the right most character position (position 86) of the field. The documentation states that only negative values were signed. However, positive signing was also discovered during archival processing of the records by the presence of 12 overpunch which results in a representation of alphabetical characters. Positive signing of the field is indicated by an alphabetical character A through I (which is the character representation of 12 (+) overpunch plus numeric values 1-9) in position 86. The field is signed negative when there is an alphabetical character J through R (which is the character representation of an 11 (-) overpunch plus numeric values 1-9) in position 86. In these records, when the right most number in the field was a zero, and the field had a positive value, the character representation is sometimes a zero (not "signed") and sometimes a null ("signed"). When the right most number in the field was a zero and the value of the field was negative, the character representation is a { . The signing format for the Dollar Value variable generally follows standard IBM mainframe programming conventions for the signing of both positive and negative values. However, since the data in this field may be "signed," conversion of this field requires special programming.
- 3) The agency did not provide the National Archives with codes for some characters that appear in the Multi-Year Procurement, Synopsis of Procurement, Extent of Competition, Certified Cost or Pricing, and Value of Engineering variables.

Accession No: 3-330-79-003

Prepared by: William P. Fischer, Archives Specialist

Date: April 15, 2002

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